JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

May 3, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Previously you approved 4,000 members of the Illinois National Guard to support the COVID-19 response efforts in a 502(f)(2)(A) of Title 32, U.S. Code. These personnel are performing critical support in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. On behalf of the citizens of Illinois I write to request your authorization to retain up to 2,000 Illinois National Guard personnel in a Title 32 status until June 30, 2020.

The Illinois National Guard has been critical to the Illinois response efforts to combat and contain the spread of the Coronavirus Disease. Over 1,200 National Guard members have been on duty providing support for testing civilians, logistics and warehouse distribution support, planning assistance for the Illinois' Emergency Management Operations Center, hospital care capacity buildup at alternate care facilities, emergency management support within the 102 counties of Illinois and many more critical duties. Although Illinois is starting to bend the curve, as you are keenly aware, we still have a significant requirement for community based testing and support in hard hit areas such as prisons, nursing homes and other congregate housing facilities. The Soldiers and Airmen of the Illinois National Guard are a vital part of our effort maintain the fight against COVID-19 and reopen our economy.

Once again, I ask that you approve and direct the office of Management and Budget, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Secretary of Defense to extend Title 32 502(f) authority for up to 2,000 members of the Illinois National Guard for the period of June 1-30, 2020. I will ensure our response force is based on critical needs to fight this pandemic and only utilize the funding where necessary. I will continue to assess the situation in Illinois and only request additional resources as required.

Thank you for your past support and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,